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Our Ref: 298704/MH

David Rutley MP
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13 March 2017

Dear David

Thank you for your correspondence of 7 February, on behalf of a number of your constituents regarding governance reform of the Football Association (FA)

The Government has been clear that the FA needs to reform its governance to ensure that the decisions the organisation takes are in the best interests of the game as a whole. This means balancing the interests of the professional leagues, clubs and supporters and grassroots development.

From this year, national governing bodies (NGBs) like the FA that wish to receive public funding and support from the Government will need to adhere to the UK Code for Sports Governance, published in October last year.

The Code sets out mandatory requirements around diversity on boards and other decision-making groups, as well as the levels of transparency, accountability and financial integrity needed to protect public investment. The code is available here: www.uk sport.gov.uk/resources/governance-code.

The Code was a key product of the international charter on sports integrity that Member States saw as essential in view of the corruption that has rocked so many of our sports in recent times.

Good governance equals better decision-making. Reform of the governance structures at the FA will undoubtedly permeate throughout football at all levels.

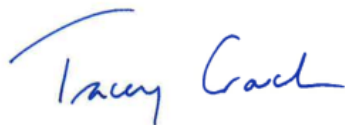
By the end of March, prior to the Code coming into effect, all NGBs should have in place an action plan agreed with either Sport England or UK Sport, which sets out what steps they are taking to become compliant with the Code and the timescale for achieving each target.

The Government's strategy for sport, published in December 2015, sets out a clear intention to promote and support sport at all levels – and to get more people active and healthy. It is far easier to achieve this with a government working in partnership with sports governing bodies.



I hope that this is of use and if I can be of any further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me.

With best wishes,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Tracey Crouch". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping initial 'T'.

Tracey Crouch MP
Minister for Sport